DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

MESSAGE CENTER

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Authority: EO 13526
DIA FOIA & Declassification Services Offices
Date: *Oct 17, 2018*

VZCZCIEC104 ~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ 30891
RUEKJCS
ACTION :DIA(15)
DISTR CJCS(01) DJS(03) J3:(04) J5(03) NMCC SECDEF:(01) ASD:ISA(10)
DIA:(01) SWS(01)
SECSTATE WASH DC
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NSA(01) MCCC(01) CMC(06)
CSAF WASH DC
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DE RUESBAA #0877 2461250
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P R 031230Z SEP 75
FM (b)(3):10 USC 424
TO RUEKJCS/DIA WASH DC
INFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
RULBSAA/USNAVSO F T AMADOR CZ
RULPAFA/USAFSO ALBROOK AFB CZ
RULPAKA/193RD INF BDE FT AMADOR CZ
BT
~~C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN~~ 0877 SEP 75

THIS IS IR NO. (b)(3):10 USC 424
1. ARGENTINA
2. COMMENTS ON ARGENTINE MILITARY FOLLOWING RECENT CRISIS (U)
3. N/A
4. 75 AUG 29
5. 75 AUG 29
6. (b)(3):10 USC 424
7.
8.
9. 75 SEP 2
10. N/A
11.
12.
13. & 14.
15. 1. ~~(C/NFD)~~

Sec. 3.3(b) (1);(b)(3):10 USC 424

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ARE HIS CLASSMATES AND PERSONAL FRIENDS.
2. ~~(C/NFD)~~ Sec. 3.3(b)(1) VERY ENCOURAGED OVER THE RESOLUTION OF THE RECENT INSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IN THE MILITARY. HE BELIEVES THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF BRIG GEN VIDELA AS ARMY CINC WILL SERVE TO UNIFY THE ARMY AND ALL OF THE ARMED FORCES. HE FEELS THAT THE ARMED FORCES ARE NOW IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT TO STAY OUT OF POLITICS AND NOT TO ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR POLITICAL ACTIONS OF THE GOVT. THEY FEEL THAT IF THE GOVT FALLS IT MUST DO SO AS THE RESULT OF ITS OWN WEAKNESS AND INEFFECTIVENESS. ON THE OTHER HAND IF THE GOVT SHOULD BE ABLE TO LIMP ALONG UNTIL ELECTIONS IN 1977, THE MILITARY WOULD NOT OBJECT. THERE IS A STRONG FEELING WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES THAT THE PERONISTS MUST BE PERMITTED TO DISCREDIT THEMSELVES ONCE AND FOR ALL EVEN IF IT MEANS THAT THE COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE TO SUFFER ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SETBACKS FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR TWO.
3. ~~(C/NFD)~~ IN REFERRING TO THE PRESIDENT, SOURCE FELT THAT SHE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SURVIVE THE SMEAR CAMPAIGN WHICH IS NOW BEING LAUNCHED REFERRING TO IT AS AN "ARGENTINE WATERGATE." HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THE DEPARTURE OF MRS PERON WOULD RESULT IN A MILITARY COUP. HOWEVER, THE MAKE-UP AND POLICIES OF THE SUCCEEDING GOVT, WHICH WOULD STEM FROM ACTION IN THE SENATE, WOULD BE VERY CAREFULLY OBSERVED BY THE MILITARY. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY SENSITIVE ABOUT SENATOR LUDER'S LEFTIST SUPPORTERS AND REALIZE THAT HE COULD POSSIBLY BE VOTED IN BY THE SENATE.
4. ~~(C/NFD)~~ SOURCE REFERRED TO THREE FACTIONS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. IN THE FIRST, HE STATED THERE ARE MANY WHO FEEL THAT A MILITARY GOVT SIMILAR TO THAT OF BRAZIL IS NEEDED NOW. A SECOND FACTION IS WILLING TO WAIT, BUT BELIEVES THAT WHEN THE MILITARY DOES STEP IN IT WILL HAVE TO ACT WITH MUCH MORE FORCE AND VIOLENCE SINCE THE GENERAL ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS WILL HAVE REACHED THE BREAKING POINT. THE THIRD GROUP BELIEVES THAT THE BEST SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND IN A COALITION BETWEEN THE MILITARY AND LABOR SECTORS. SOURCE IDENTIFIED EX-CINC LTG LAPLANE, BG CACERES, COL DAMASCO, COL CORRAL, BRIG GEN EZCURRA, AND COL SOSA MOLINA AS BEING THE LEADERS OF THIS FACTION. HE STATED THAT WHILE IT IS TRUE THAT THEY LOST THE "FIRST ROUND", THEY PROBABLY WOULD NOT GIVE UP. HE ALSO CONNECTED EX-PRESIDENT, MAJ GEN LEVINGSTON, WITH THIS GROUP. SOURCE DOES NOT SEE A RADICAL LEFTIST MOVEMENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES SIMILAR TO THAT IN PORTUGAL.
(b)(3):10 USC 42
5. ~~(C/NFD)~~ [redacted] POINTED OUT TO SOURCE THAT BRIG GEN VIDELA, THE NEW ARMY CINC, HAS BEEN KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS AS BEING

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HIGHLY CAPABLE, BUT AN OFFICER WHO PREFERS TO WORK IN THE SHADOW OF ANOTHER OFFICER AS A DEPUTY OR CHIEF OF STAFF. SOURCE RESPONDED THAT THE ABOVE EVALUATION WAS ABSOLUTELY ACCURATE, BUT WENT ON TO PEDICT THAT VIDELA WOULD BE VERY SUCCESSFUL IN THAT HE IS HIGHLY REPSECTED AND THAT THE TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR HIM TO COME TO THE FRONT OF THE STAGE.
6. ~~(C/NFD)~~ CMT: THE THREE FACTIONS MENTIONED BY THE SOURCE ARE GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AND ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED Sec. 3.3(b) (1) (SEE IR (b)(3):10 USC 424;Sec. 3.3(SOURCE'S DENIAL THAT THERE IS ANY SIGNIFICANT LEFTIST MOVEMENT WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES CONFIRMS OTHER REPORTS RECEIVED RECENTLY. THE STRONGEST FEELING BEING EXPRESSED BY JUNIOR AND MIDDLE GRADE OFFICERS AT THIS TIME IS ONE OF FRUSTRATION AND A DESIRE TO MOUNT AN ALL-OUT CAMPAIGN TO ERADICATE THE TERRORISTS FROM THE COUNTRY. THIS FRUSTRATION MAY BE RELIEVED IF THE LONG AWAITED SECRETARIAT FOR INTERNAL SECURITY IS ESTABLISHED (PROPOSED BEFORE PERON'S DEATH AND BLOCKED BY LOPEZ REGA). THE ARMY, HAVING SOUNDLY REJECTED ACTIVE POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVT, IS AN INSTITUTION LOOKING FOR A MISSION. ALSO, THE RECENT BOMBINGS OF THE SANTISSIMO TRINIDAD AND THE C-130 IN TUCUMAN MIGHT HAVE CONVINCED THE NAVY AND THE AIR FORCE THAT THEY SHOULD TAKE A MORE ACTIVE COUNTER-GUERRILLA ROLE IN COOPERATION WITH THE ARMY. ~~CONFIDENTIAL NOFORN TO PROTECT SOURCE~~ Sec. 3.3(b) (1)
MSG COORDINATED WITH EMBASSY.
~~SDS DEC 84~~
BT
Sec. 3.3
ANNOTES
JEP 117

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